



2016

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(TOPOGRAPHY)  
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT  
TO ACCOMPANY  
ORIGINAL FIELD SHEET

ENTITLED  
TOPOGRAPHY *Topo. No. 2016*  
PACIFIC COAST *Sec 16 45*

FROM  
SAN ONOFRE CREEK

TO  
HORNO CAÑON.

CALIFORNIA

1889

Scale 1/10,000

Geographic locality

Latitude 33° 19' - 23'

Longitude 117° 33'

Aug. C. No. 453

Christie



Topography

Descriptive Report  
to accompany  
Original Field Sheet, entitled

Topography  
Pacific Coast

from  
San Diego Creek

to  
Horn Cañon

California, 1889 State 114000.

Locality

The general locality is expressed in title, although the principal feature of the sheet is what is known as San Diego Mountain the summit of which is 11720 feet elevation.

Limits of sheet expressed geographically are Latitude  $33^{\circ} 19'$  to  $34^{\circ}$ , the Central Meridian of sheet is  $117^{\circ} 33'$ .

Climate

Refers to Oceanside & vicinity

Rainfall

Same influence

Winds

Same influence

Barometric range

Same influence

Topographic detail

The Salient topographic feature of the coast is the San Onofre Mountain 1720 feet elevation; the formation is marked by high abrupt ridges running back at right angles to the general direction of the Coast line; these ridges are separated by deep gorges or Cañons, heavily clothed with brush & Chaparral upon their sides, which bear but little evidence of erosion.

Until they reach the more level lands or mesa's, close to the Ocean bluffs & here the water cutting shows precipitous sides from 50 to 100 feet in height, one of these, the first on North of Horns Canyon

was a scene of a stage-road tragedy on a night in 1884; when a driver leaving San Juan Capistrano bound for Los Angeles & intending to change at Las Flores, missing the road at the crossing of the Barranca Choe under the foot-hills - forced his horses in the darkness & under the whip & in full run landed in the Barranca bed, with a nearly vertical fall of 90 feet between its banks. Good passengers & driver had jumped from the stage, fortunately for them, before the leap was made & leaving traces of the driver & stage in the darkness they regained the road & continued their way to Las Flores & reported the facts.

A search party found the whole stage outfit a wreck, the horses both dead & the driver with barely life enough left to ask not to be reported to the Mail Contractor; he died within a few hours; the wheels alone, of the stage, even with the trouble of packing out to the road, all else was reduced to fragments. This

portion of the Coast, was locally known as "Los Barrancos", from the fact that the Coast mesa's are here broken by a series of deep & precipitous ravines. The Spanish Speaking people of California call all water washed ravines or gullies "Barrancas" or "Barrancos".

quite a marked feature of the Topography of San Onofre Mountain Vicinity is the extensive landslip which marks its Eastern Side, whether this was due to long continuous rain, & saturated soil or to a tremor, or to a combination of both, is uncertain, but the displacement of large areas upon the Eastern face of San Onofre is plainly written on the broken formation, as shown by the topographic detail; the same marks occur in the Ocean bluffs forming the Western face of San Onofre.

Lime Stone abounds in Horno Cañon which cuts the Southern Slope of San Onofre & whether the Cañon was named from it being "as hot as an oven" or from the oven

for burning lime, said to have been used  
in construction of the great Mission buildings  
at San Luis Rey, 30 miles distant. Query  
undecided.

San Diego Valley North of San Diego  
Mountain, is during the frost season a  
beautiful valley, its lands are susceptible  
of high cultivation as both Horns & San  
Diego Valleys offer opportunities for impounding  
reservoirs for water, to irrigate large areas  
of arable land. The streams through both  
these valleys & Cañons are torned in ordinary  
winter storms & millions of gallons during  
each rainy season runs to waste in the  
Ocean.

For both Horns & San Diego  
timber is abundant, Cycamores & oak  
of large size are characteristic features.

All the Cañons backing the ridge  
of San Diego are densely covered with  
chaparral & quail & deer abound.

North of San Diego Valley the "Cuchilla  
Medio" (or Middle Horns), as the Spaniards  
call the ridge, is very densely covered with

Cactus & its (contn) slope is at present of no value for grazing. All the other lands within the limits of the Chuk, are devoted to pasture, & belong to the Estate of James B. Flood.

San Mateo Valley at the extreme northern end of this Chuk, was a portion of the course of a P.O. Chuk still for the north - it is a very extensive valley & is notable as one of the few through which a well defined running stream may be seen above the surface, the year around.

#### Coast line formation

Clay bluffs from 20 to 100 feet high, showing new erosion during each winter storm are the characteristic features of the part of the coast.

#### Beach formation

There are no breaks in the exposure of sand beach - from Horns Cañon to the mouth of San Diego, except where the few out cropping rocks are shown upon the Chuk, upon some of these beds of mussels

any found.

### Character of Soil

A rich loam of great depth characterizes all the flat lands, whether on the mesa's or valleys, and susceptible of high cultivation when water available for irrigation; the strength of this soil is shown in the immense growth of Mesquite which is able to sustain life under difficulty of occasional scant water supply, and great fields of it attain heights of 10 feet or more & so thick that two men on horseback, 50 or 70 feet apart may be hidden from each other.

### Shingle lives

There are no Shingle lives & no Shingle to be seen upon the beaches of the Chuk Limb except north of San Diego & San Mateo Valleys or between the two Valleys & this is not a marked feature, except as occasionally interfering with beach travel.

### Reception of Coast line

No marked evidence

## Rivers & Run - beds

None

## Salt Marsh Land

None worthy of mention. There is a small area of Swampy land, north of San Onofre Valley, as shown upon the Chart.

## Traveling dunes

None

## Natural Vegetation

The natural grasses described in description of San, "Ocauicide x Vicinity", herbages, fragr plants & an identical  
Fruit & Fruit trees

Think no attempt has ever been made to raise fruit of any kind within area covered by Chart, which has from earliest European settlement been devoted to stock raising & raising of Cattle & Horses.

## Settlements

There is at present no collection of houses, larger than the flag B.R. Station at San Onofre, belonging to the California

## Conthorn Railway

An attempt was made to start a town called "Ooster City", some 10 years since, near the present San Onofre R.R. Station, but the attempt failed & the houses were razed & materials moved elsewhere.

A deserted cabin, belonging to the Elwood Estate, a half mile from the R.R. Station is the only other building within the limits of Chuk & was occupied by Copogophers. Partly in November & December 1889.

## Rail Road

The California Conthorn Railway traverses the length of the Chuk, nearly parallel to the Coast line & generally within a few hundred yards of the Ocean cliffs.

## Wagon Road

The line of the former Stage road between San Diego & Los Angeles & via the intervening Mission of San Juan Capistrano & San Luis Rey, is still the main route of Coast travel & is shown under the steep slope of San Onofre Mountain, crossing the Barrancas

Before mentioned, at points where they change the Baranca form to Cañon's & where the declivity erosion was stopped by sub surface rocks, and no bridges were required. Except in these Crookings the wagon road is of natural grade & bed.

### Bridges

There are none on the wagon road & those on the line of the Rail way are single track trestles at the Baranca Crookings, one or two of these trestles (which are nearly 100 feet above the baranca beds.

### Wharves &

None

### Elevations &

The Contours of level represent 20 feet differences of height & are referred to N.W.M.

Respectfully Submitted  
 Wm. D. Rogers  
 Assistant